

## The Adoption Directory

### TO RESCUE OR TO BUY?

*A few things to consider when searching for your next companion pet.*

"I've given it some thought," you tell your friends one day, "And decided I'm in a good place in my life where I finally have the time and money to take care of a dog. I've done some research and found the perfect breed. I'm meeting with breeders next week."

"You can't be thinking about buying a dog!" A friend tells you, shocked, "It's irresponsible when there are abandoned dogs out there that really need a home."

"Good point," you think.



*Photo: Sad Robinson*

*Purebred puppies are predictable, but what if you want to rescue an adult?*

If you purchase your pure bred dog from a responsible breeder, you know they have a breeding program in place and are working to

eradicate health and behavioural problems. Also, the puppy you buy will be happy, healthy and predictable so you know its size, grooming requirements, temperament and energy level will suit your lifestyle.

On the other hand, many wonderful dogs come from shelters and can become great companions. Adopting a dog from a shelter means there's a possibility of a great or not-so-great dog. It could become aggressive or have health problems.

There is, however, a third option that is often overlooked, and that is

*(Continued on page 2)*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Adoption Directory 1-2

Ironbark's Story 1-2

What is a Rescue Dog? 3

Choosing the Right Rescue Dog 3

About the Companion Dog Club 4

Membership Application 4



*Ironbark having a sniff around.*

## Ironbark's Story

*This issue of the newsletter is all about rescuing dogs but sometimes dogs are able to rescue us as described in this touching story from CDC members Jennie and Brendan. When they lost their beloved dog Ironbark well before his time, they found themselves rescued by the love of a new puppy they hadn't even planned to get!*

Our English Springer Spaniel, Ironbark, was suffering from a mystery illness that was finally identified through a blood test.

In August, Ironbark was diagnosed with Leukemia.

Our vet gave us the choice to put him on to cortisone or put him to sleep that

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Ironbark (continued)



*Cedar after a good day swimming at the beach*

*(Continued from page 1)*

week.

There were no guarantees with the cortisone treatment, but we decided to try it and see how it would affect him.

It was emotionally trying for us humans, but he took his tablets and enjoyed life to the fullest, making it easy for us to (almost) forget he was ill and get on with everyday life.

The cortisone gave us an extra precious six months with Ironbark full of off-lead walks, family outings, swimming and beach excursions. He loved people and children and was always happy.

He led a full and happy dog life before the reality of his

illness caught up, but even as he began struggling to breathe it was clear he was not going to give up without a fight. He was only with us for two years and four months, but he made the most of it.

And then along came Diesel just a week after we lost Ironbark. We hadn't planned to get a puppy but he turned out to be a much-needed addition not only for us but for our other Springer, Cedar.

Diesel is a confident puppy, with a quirky nature - not unlike Ironbark. He is

clever and doing all the same things Ironbark did at the same age . . . and more.



*Diesel, the new Springer pup*

Wow, what a shock to the system! A puppy again after two well house trained Springers. Toilet training is ongoing and will probably drive me crazy.

Cedar and I are going to need a girl's time out!

“

**We hadn't planned to get a puppy, but Diesel turned out to be a much-needed addition after we lost Ironbark**

”

# Adoption Directory (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

adopting a dog from a breed specific rescue group.

Breeders work hard to make sure their puppies go to responsible owners, even purebred dogs can find themselves surrendered and in need

of a new home. Some people may move to a place where they can't have a dog or find themselves in a position where they can no longer care for their dog properly.

When you choose this option, you can still get all the benefits of a predictable purebred and the same satisfaction of rescuing a dog in need of a new home.

To help make this easier,

DOGS Victoria's Companion Dog Club has teamed up with rescue groups around the state to create The Adoption Directory with breed information and contacts for rescue groups. This project was officially launched on Thursday, 27 March.

Visit the directory online and let the Companion Dog Club help you find the perfect companion for your age and stage of life.

**Adopting an adult dog can be rewarding way to find your next companion dog.**

*Photo: Sal Robinson*



# What is a Rescue Dog?

At the Companion Dog Club's last Walk and Talk night, someone asked the question, "What is a Rescue Dog?"

There's not an easy answer to this question because there are really several different ways in which dogs could be considered "rescue" dogs in the sense that they are removed from their original home and placed into a new one.

The condition of their original home is probably what makes the biggest difference among these dogs.

A lot of people think of a rescue dog as a soulful little mutt adopted from a dog shelter, and this is indeed one type of rescued dog.



*This Beagle is hoping for a new home*

Unfortunately, in many of these cases they have been either removed from their original home or dumped by owners who can no longer be bothered caring for them.

The second type of rescue dog is one with more responsible owners who are re-homing the dog for any number of reasons. They may be doing this privately or through a breeder, breed

club or rescue group. These dogs may come from loving homes and are not just "dumped" but are kept until a suitable new home can be located.

Both types of rescue dogs can make wonderful pets and there are rewards beyond the benefits of just owning a dog - the good feeling deep down of having rescued an animal in need can't be compared with anything else.

The Companion Dog Club is particularly suited to dogs who have been rescued as any type of dog can join. The club provides socialisation and is great for first-time dog owners who may need some advice.

“  
***The good feeling of having rescued an animal in need can't be compared to anything else***  
”

# Choosing the Right Rescue Dog

There is a certain idealistic charm about wandering amongst dogs at a shelter and waiting for one to have the right look in its eyes, but reality can hit a little too hard when the family pet is selected in this manner. Many people are interested only in the look of a dog, leaving many other important characteristics overlooked.



*Finding the perfect dog may leave you confused, but many groups can help!*

It is important to find a dog that suits your age and stage of life. A little bit of research can go a long way when choosing your new best friend for the next decade.

Rescue groups can help you make this decision, and here are few things to consider before you begin your search.

- How much space do I have available for a dog? *Find a dog whose energy level and size will suit the amount of space you can provide.*
- How much time can I commit to my dog? *Some dogs require a lot of attention, exercise or grooming and others are more independent and low-maintenance. All dogs need training and socialisation.*
- What kind of activities do my family and I enjoy? *If you are involved in outdoor activities, you'll need an energetic dog with endurance. If you are more of the homebody type, then you want a dog that will be happy to laze around the house with you.*
- The age of those who will be interacting with the dog is also important as some dogs are more tolerant than others. You should never leave young children alone with any dog or puppy.
- Am I a first time dog owner? *Some types of dogs can be very challenging to train and may not be suitable for those inexperienced with dog ownership.*

## What is the Companion Dog Club?



The club provides pedigree and non-pedigree dogs and their owners with a club that will promote and appreciate the uniqueness of all types and breeds of dogs. It also recognizes that each one of our canine friends is in a class of its own and a companion in its own right.

As a member of the Companion Dog Club you and your dog will receive a number of benefits that encourage responsible dog ownership and welfare from within your own community.

### DOGS Victoria

KCC Park  
655 Westernport Hwy  
Skye VIC 3977  
Phone: 03 9788 2509  
E-mail: [media@dogsvictoria.org.au](mailto:media@dogsvictoria.org.au)

### Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership

Refer a friend to the club and receive a special gift from Purina. Be sure they put your name in the "Referred by" section.



# Companion Dog Club

for all dogs

## Application Form

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Ph:.....

Email:.....

Dogs Name & Breed:.....

Referred By:.....

Payment can be made by  
Cheque, Money Order, Visa, Mastercard or Bankcard

Name on Card:.....

Card No:.....

Expiry Date:.....

Signature:.....

For only \$25.00 including GST, you and your family can become members of the Companion Dog Club. Yes, the \$25.00 covers everyone in your family AND you can include as many dogs as there are in your household!



I am interested in more information about:

Online Competitions

Responsible Dog Ownership

Attending Fun Dog Events

Other:.....